

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-7 (withdrawn).

8(Currently amended). A modular belt system, comprising:

a plurality of belt modules having a product conveying surface, a bottom surface disposed opposite from the product conveying surface and an opening disposed substantially perpendicular to the product conveying surface, the opening extending from the product conveying surface to the bottom surface, the opening being defined by a first inner wall that is substantially straight and a second inner wall having a straight portion extending from the product conveying surface to a point between the product conveying surface and the bottom surface, the second inner wall having a recessed portion forming a ledge, the opening having a larger diameter at the bottom surface than at the product conveying surface ~~the module having a recessed portion defined therein adjacent to the opening such that a ledge is formed adjacent to the opening;~~ and,

a side guard having a central post with a projection disposed thereon, the central post capable of sliding substantially perpendicular into the opening such that the projection engages with the recessed portion in the belt module.

9(Currently amended). ~~The modular belt system of Claim 8;~~ A modular belt system, comprising: a plurality of belt modules having a product conveying surface and an opening disposed substantially perpendicular to the product conveying surface, the module having a recessed portion defined therein adjacent to the opening such that a ledge is formed adjacent to the opening; and,

a side guard having a central post with a projection disposed thereon, the central post capable of sliding into the opening such that the projection engages with the recessed portion in the belt module wherein the central post has a back wall that is beveled inward and disposed opposite from the projection.

10(Currently amended). The modular belt system of Claim 8 9, wherein the plurality of belt modules comprises an intermediate section having a sinusoidal shape and a plurality of link ends extending from the intermediate section in opposite directions such that one of the plurality of belt modules is capable of being intercalated with an adjacent belt module by a pivot rod, the adjacent belt modules forming a radius belt capable of collapsing around a curved conveying path.

11(Currently amended). The modular belt system of Claim 8 9, wherein the side guard has a first wing extending from the central post in a first direction.

12(Original). The modular belt system of Claim 11, wherein the side guard has a second wing extending from the central post in a second direction opposite the first direction.

13(Original). The modular belt system of Claim 12, wherein the first wing and the second wing are offset laterally with respect to a longitudinal axis defined through the center of the central post.

14 (Currently amended). The modular belt system of Claim 8 9, wherein a front surface of the central post is coplanar with the second wing.

15(Canceled).

16(Canceled).

17-20(Withdrawn).